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16 February 1950

MEMORANDUM FOR: ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, ORE  
VIA: EXECUTIVE

FROM: Assistant Director, OCD

SUBJECT: Estimate of extent to which Soviets have recently curtailed distribution of overt publications

REFERENCE: Memo to DCI from [redacted] OSD, dated 6 Feb 1950, subject as above, Top Secret

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1. The reference request raises two points of interoffice policy, and it is for that reason that this memorandum is transmitted via the Executive for his information and comment.

2. The two points are: 1) Should OCD, which does not employ professional writers or editors, produce this estimate which is on a subject primarily within OCD's sphere of interest? and, 2) Should OCD coordinate the estimate if it is to be written by ORE?

3. As to the writing of the estimate, I believe it should be done by ORE which is staffed with professional writers and editors. It is true that such estimates are written in the other agencies by the collection people themselves, but I think CIA should avoid the kind of interoffice rivalry which results from divided responsibility of this sort. It does not seem to me very important whether a CIA estimate is written by ORE, or OSI, or OCD. The other agencies do not care who in CIA does a particular job, so long as the job is done and the Agency accepts responsibility for it. This being the case it would seem uneconomical for OCD to develop a small production outfit to handle the rare requests of this sort.

4. Coordination of this estimate, I believe, should be done by OCD. The reason for this is that the people in the other agencies who are concerned in such estimates are not those with whom ORE normally does business directly. In State, for example, it is OLI rather than OIR which is concerned with collection matters, and OLI is OCD's opposite number.

5. Hence, if this approach is approved by the Executive, it is requested that ORE undertake to write the required estimate and deliver

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the draft informally to OCD for interoffice and interagency coordination.

6. OCD is now collecting pertinent information for the estimate, and will transmit it to ORE as it comes in. OO, OSI and OSO have been asked to supply any information available to them which has a bearing on the subject. The complete take should be in your hands early next week.

JAMES M. ANDREWS

Approved:

  
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Executive

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